



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 9, 2000

000201-038
000201-037

Docket OST-99-6210

Per Congressional

Not 300 File

000201-038

OST 99-6210-296

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Chabot:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleague, in support of Delta Air Lines' application to provide air service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In August of 1999, the United States and Argentina reached a new aviation agreement eliminating all restrictions on air services between the countries after a three-year transition period. During the transition, the level of U.S.-Argentina combination services that can be operated by U.S. carriers can be increased in phases. Specifically, U.S. carriers may operate seven additional flights per week beginning September 1, 2000, and an additional seven each on June 1, 2001, and June 1, 2002. All limitations between the U.S. and Argentina will be lifted by June of 2003.

By Order 99-11-14, the Department instituted the 1999 U.S.-Argentina Combination Service Case, Docket OST-99-6210, to select a carrier or carriers to operate the 14 flights available during the first two phases of the transitional period. Delta is one of three applicants for the seven frequencies that become available on September 1, 2000, and Delta has proposed to operate its services from Atlanta. Since Delta's proposal is one of several applications pending before the Department for the available authority, I am sure you can understand that I cannot comment on the merits of any application. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in making our decision.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-99-6210 and in the file for contacts outside the record of the case.

An identical letter has been sent to the cosigner of your letter.

If the Department can be of further assistance, please contact me or Michael Frazier, Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, at (202) 366-4573.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Slater



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

February 9, 2000

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Docket OST-99-6210
Correspondence
Not 505 file

The Honorable Rob **Portman**
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman **Portman**:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleague, in support of Delta Air Lines' application to provide air service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In August of **1999**, the United States and Argentina reached a new aviation agreement eliminating all restrictions on air services between the countries after a three-year transition period. During the transition, the level of U.S.-Argentina combination services that can be operated by U.S. carriers can be increased in phases. Specifically, U.S. carriers may operate seven additional flights per week beginning September **1, 2000**, and an additional seven each on June **1, 2001**, and June **1, 2002**. All limitations between the U.S. and Argentina will be lifted by June of **2003**.

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Sincerely,

Rodney E. Slater



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

February 9, 2000

000201-037
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Docket OST-99-6210
Correspondence
Sent 300 file

The Honorable Connie **Mack**
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0904

Dear Senator **Mack**:

Thank you for your letter in support of Delta Air Lines' application to provide air service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In August of **1999**, the United States and Argentina reached a new aviation agreement eliminating all restrictions on air services between the countries after a three-year transition period. During the transition, the level of U.S.-Argentina combination services that can be operated by U.S. carriers can be increased in phases. Specifically, U.S. carriers may operate seven additional flights per week beginning September **1, 2000**, and an additional seven each on June **1, 2001**, and June **1, 2002**. All limitations between the U.S. and Argentina will be lifted by June of **2003**.

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Sincerely,

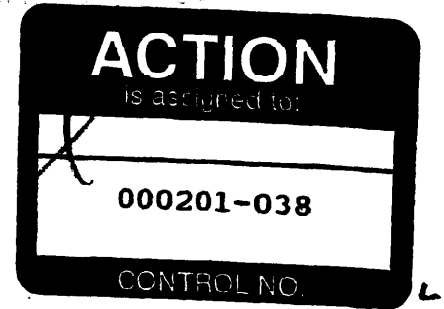
Rodney E. Slater

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2000

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW, Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590



Dear Secretary Slater:

We are writing to express our support for the application of Delta Air Lines for authority for service to Argentina beginning September 1, 2000. Delta's proposal for daily Atlanta-Buenos Aires service would provide travelers and companies from Ohio with enhanced access to Argentina.


Delta has undertaken an expansion in service from Atlanta to Latin America providing nonstop service to such cities as Sao Paulo, Lima, Caracas, Panama City, San Salvador, San Jose, and Guatemala City. Delta's commitment to these markets has resulted in a substantial economic benefit for states like Ohio. Regional trade and tourism have grown since Delta introduced nonstop air service to Latin America, and, given the fact that Argentina is Latin America's second largest economy, we hope to see additional economic benefits following the introduction of this new nonstop air service.


We appreciate the Department of Transportation's efforts to improve service to Latin America. For many years, air service between the United States and Argentina has been severely restricted. However, the new air services agreement will finally allow new competition in this important market. The approval of Delta's application for Atlanta-Buenos Aires nonstop service would be an optimum use of this new authority while providing valuable travel benefits to Ohio.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of Delta's application consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Please feel free to include this letter in any public file.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Steve Chabot
Chairman
House


Rob Portman
Rankin
(R) OH

CONNIE MACK
FLORIDA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0904



January 21, 2000

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing in support of Delta Air Lines' application for authority for service to Argentina beginning September 1, 2000. Delta's proposal for daily Atlanta-Buenos Aires service would bring enormous benefit to Northern Florida and the entire Southeastern U.S.

I understand Delta has begun a successful buildup in service **from** Atlanta to Latin **America**. Atlanta now has nonstop service to **Sao Paulo**, Lima, Caracas, Panama City, San Salvador, San Jose and **Guatemala** City. Regional trade and tourism have grown since Delta introduced nonstop **air service to Latin America**. Given the fact that Argentina is Latin **America's second largest economy**, additional economic development following the introduction of **this** new nonstop air service is expected.

I further understand Atlanta recently became the world's busiest airport at which Delta alone currently operates **640** flights per day. The size and scope of connecting services at the Atlanta gateway **offer Northern** Florida passengers and shippers convenient access to nonstop domestic and international services.

The new agreement with Argentina will finally allow new competition in this important market. The award of the new service should be given to the carrier and gateway that can provide the most benefits. Delta's proposed service represents an enormous benefit to Northern Florida, and I urge you to choose Delta's Atlanta-Buenos Aires proposal for September 1, 2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Mack".

Connie Mack
United States Senator